

success by ensuring that the apprenticeship system is modernized to address the workforce needs of the 21st century.

I support the Titus amendment and urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

I also am grateful that the ranking member is supportive of the Titus amendment. I thank everyone for their consideration, and I wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

AMERICAN HOTEL & LODGING  
ASSOCIATION,  
November 18, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*  
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Republican Leader,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA), the sole national association representing all segments of the U.S. lodging industry, including iconic global brands, hotel owners and franchisees, lodging real estate investment trusts (REITs), hotel management companies, independent properties, bed and breakfasts, state hotel associations, and industry suppliers, I write in support of H.R. 8294, National Apprenticeship Act of 2020. This important legislation would expand the national apprenticeship system to include nontraditional apprenticeship industries and create a grant program to support registered apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and youth apprenticeship programs. AHLA also strongly supports the bipartisan amendment offered by Representatives Dina Titus (NV-1) and Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) that would specifically identify the hospitality and tourism industries as a nontraditional apprenticeship industry under Sec. 201 of the Act.

Prior to the pandemic, filling service positions was one of the hospitality industry's most significant challenges. According to the Department of Labor (DOL), it was estimated that nearly one million job vacancies remained unfilled. In order to meet the needs of the industry, AHLA and the AHLA Foundation, the charitable giving arm of the association, are developing innovative programs that invest in our workforce and are designed to open opportunities for underprivileged communities, build careers, and strengthen the lodging industry. The National Apprenticeship Act of 2020 would enable our Foundation to achieve this mission through grant programs specifically targeted to our industry. Additionally, the legislation updates the National Apprenticeship Act to provide the flexibility we need to reflect modern practices while maintaining the high standards set forth by DOL.

On behalf of the more than 33,000 small business hotels, which represents over half of hotels in the country, and the millions of associates they employ, I urge the House of Representatives to swiftly pass H.R. 8294 and provide nontraditional apprenticeship industries, like the hospitality and tourism sectors, an avenue to continue to grow our workforce and support our communities. Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN CRAWFORD,  
*Executive Vice President,  
Government Affairs.*

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Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I support the three amendments en bloc. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, along with these three amendments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 8294 is postponed.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARK ANTHONY BROWN

(Ms. SLOTKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a lifelong servant of the Lansing community, Mr. Mark Anthony Brown, who passed away November 9. I had the honor of knowing him and to have learned much from him.

Born and raised in Lansing, and devoted to Lansing until his final days, he lived with relentless desire to improve himself and those around him. He was an integral part of many Lansing organizations, from the local branch of the NAACP to the Mayor's Diversity Inclusion Advisory Board. In every endeavor, he was dedicated to making sure that underrepresented voices were heard when decisions were made.

Mr. Brown was a man who was loved deeply. Guided by faith, with his family as his north star, he never stopped working for his community. Above all, Mr. Brown believed in the power of genuine connections across race, creed, background, and belief. He was a unifier who brought people together to better Lansing, and I will be forever grateful to him.

Today, I am thinking of those closest to him: His mother, his brothers and sisters, his aunts and uncles, and his four children.

I speak these words today so that his legacy is forever remembered in the permanent RECORD of the people's House, letting all who read it know: Mark Brown made a difference.

#### HONORING LESTER SHOFF

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an amazing constituent and patriot from the Central Coast of California, Lester Shoff.

Raised in Pennsylvania, Lester was drafted into the Army in 1941. In fact, his draft number in the lottery was lucky number 1. Making the rank of staff sergeant, Lester was sent to the South Pacific and faced many of the challenges of serving in World War II.

He fought for 4 years on close to 10 islands in the Pacific, during which time he turned down a battlefield commission to become an officer. He was shot in the back by a sniper, and he was even stung by a scorpion.

Although Lester was the recipient of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, his daughter, Kay, told us that he never liked discussing the war because, when he did, the unemotional Lester would be brought to tears by the memory of two men who died on a mission that he led.

After serving, Lester moved to Silicon Valley, where he worked for Lockheed and developed glue for the Space Shuttle. He then retired to the Central Coast with his family.

Madam Speaker, some say Lester was lucky; I say that we are all lucky to call Lester an American.

#### ADDING COUNTIES TO THE SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that would add the counties in my Congressional District—Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare—to the Southwest Border Regional Commission.

Modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Southwest Border Regional Commission, or SBRC, was established to promote economic growth to help distressed regions that have historically been left behind attain socioeconomic parity with the rest of the Nation.

The Central Valley is one such region plagued by economic disparities, yet it is not part of any Federal regional commission. This must change. That is why I am here.

My district continues to be in deep need of economic development and Federal investment. Unemployment in the region is consistently higher, and education attainment consistently lower than any other region in California.

The need for more Federal investment is critical now more than ever because of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. Adding these counties and funding the SBRC will jump-start communities and small businesses, helping America “Build Back Better” while generating new economic opportunities for hardworking people who are waiting for their chance of achieving the America Dream.